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Attachment to Z-15898/82

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NPIC/IEG (09/82)

30 SEPTEMBER 1982

NEW CONSTRUCTION AT AIRCRAFT FACILITIES  
PANGHYON, NORTH KOREA

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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: A NEW AIRCRAFT FLIGHT OPERATIONS BUILDING AND A FINAL ASSEMBLY HANGAR WERE NEWLY IDENTIFIED AT PANGHYON NODONGJAGU FABRICATION/ASSEMBLY PLANT ON IMAGERY OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF PROBABLE FUTURE AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION VERSUS AIRCRAFT REPAIR AT THE FACILITY. ALSO, A NEW LARGE AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE/CHECKOUT BUILDING OR COVERED HARDSTAND WAS IDENTIFIED UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT PANGHYON AIRFIELD REPAIR BASE ON THE SAME IMAGERY.

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2. (SWN) REMARKS: THE NEWLY IDENTIFIED FLIGHT OPERATIONS BUILDING (GRAPHICS 1 AND 2) IS AT THE NORTHEASTERN EDGE OF THE PLANT OVERLOOKING THE OPEN AREA WHERE HIP, HOPLITE, AND OTHER AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS ARE LOCATED. IT CONSISTS OF A CIRCULAR CONTROL TOWER ON A LARGER L-SHAPED BUILDING. THE CONTROL TOWER, WITH AT LEAST FOUR COMMUNICATIONS ANTENNAS MOUNTED ON TOP, APPEARED COMPLETED. THE L-SHAPED BUILDING IS IN THE LATE STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION. CONSTRUCTION OF THE FLIGHT OPERATIONS BUILDING AND TOWER STARTED IN EARLY JULY 1982.

(SWN) ADDITIONALLY, IMAGERY OF THE FABRICATION/ASSEMBLY PLANT REVEALED THAT THE EASTERNMOST SECTION OF THE LARGEST ASSEMBLY BUILDING, WHICH IS NEARING COMPLETION, HAS A LARGE HANGAR-TYPE ENTRANCE (GRAPHIC 1). THIS ENTRANCE WILL PROVIDE A 36-METER WIDE BY 11-METER HIGH ACCESS TO THE EAST, TOWARD THE OPEN AREA ASSOCIATED WITH THE FLIGHT OPERATIONS BUILDING AND HELICOPTER PARKING AREA.

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(SWN) AT THE AIRFIELD REPAIR BASE, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE/CHECKOUT STRUCTURE HAS BEGUN SINCE EARLY SEPTEMBER. THE NEW STRUCTURE IS 120 METERS LONG AND 24 METERS WIDE AND IS BEING CONSTRUCTED OVER THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE HARDSTAND WHICH IS USED FOR JET AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE (GRAPHIC 3). THE STRUCTURE APPEARS TO BE DIVIDED INTO TEN BAYS. THE AIRCRAFT ENGINE BLAST DEFLECTORS AT THE HARDSTAND ARE BEING MODIFIED FOR AIRCRAFT ENGINE OPERATIONS FROM WITHIN THE NEW STRUCTURE.

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(SWN) ANALYSTS' COMMENTS: THE MAJOR EXPANSION OF FABRICATION BUILDING FLOORSPACE, THE LARGE AIRCRAFT HANGAR-TYPE ENTRANCE ON A NEW LARGE FABRICATION BUILDING, AND THE ADDITION OF THE FLIGHT CONTROL TOWER AT THE PANGHYON NODONGJAGU FABRICATION/ASSEMBLY PLANT INDICATE THAT THE PLANT IS FOR PROBABLE AIRCRAFT FABRICATION/ASSEMBLY RATHER THAN REPAIR. FURTHERMORE, THE INCREASING HELICOPTER ACTIVITY AT THE PLANT AND THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF A DIRECT AIRCRAFT LINK (TAXIWAY OR RAIL) TO PANGHYON AIRFIELD [REDACTED] WHICH IS 4 NM SOUTHEAST OF THE PLANT, STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THE PLANT WILL BE A HELICOPTER FABRICATION/ASSEMBLY FACILITY.

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(SWN) THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW MAINTENANCE/CHECKOUT STRUCTURE AT PANGHYON AIRFIELD REPAIR BASE MAY BE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COVER. HOWEVER, IT WILL DEGRADE OUR ABILITY TO MONITOR AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY AT THE REPAIR BASE.

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3. (S) [REDACTED] 39052-00N 125-15-30E (GRAPHICS 1 AND 2)  
(S) [REDACTED] 39-52-52N 125-14-00E (GRAPHIC 3)

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